

The President's Daily Brief

3 March 1969

(Afternoon)

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~~Top Secret~~^{50X1}

4 March 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
3 MARCH 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

There is nothing significant to report.

EUROPE

There is nothing significant to report.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

There has been no significant change in the Berlin situation. Kiesinger left Bonn for West Berlin this morning.

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Brandt is already in the city.

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VIETNAM

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II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

SOVIET UNION - COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking and Moscow are going at it hot and heavy in their propaganda war over Sunday's border clash. Typical of the suspicion on both sides is the assertion of a Soviet diplomat in Tokyo that the rapid Chinese response to Moscow's protest suggests a degree of advance planning on Peking's part. The diplomat also revealed that only two months ago, Moscow decided to allow dependents to return to its embassy in Peking, on the theory that the era of Chinese demonstrations was past. Today Peking radio announced that 400,000 demonstrators marched past the embassy "from dawn to dusk."

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

The day passed relatively quietly in Berlin. One section of a US convoy was delayed on the autobahn for an hour in the morning because of "maneuvers," but two British and one French convoy transited without incident. West German federal assembly members have begun to arrive in West Berlin. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] In addition to the presidential election Wednesday, several Bundestag committees will hold sessions in West Berlin tomorrow, Thursday, and Friday.

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The immediate prospect is for the Communists to continue harassment on the scale of April 1965. The Soviets at that time showed their displeasure at a plenary session of the West German Bundestag in Berlin with jets buzzing the city, producing sonic booms, and conducting exercises in or near the air corridors to Berlin, and with military maneuvers which provided both an ominous background and a rationale for intermittent closure of the autobahns to Berlin.



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Moscow is keeping close control over the situation,
however, on the scene as well as at home. [REDACTED]

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VIETNAM

The lull in enemy activity continues with Communist-initiated incidents at a pre-offensive level. An abundance of evidence, however, points to an enemy intention to resume offensive activity shortly. One recently captured enemy directive reveals that the Communists plan to coordinate extensive political demonstrations in urban centers with further military action.

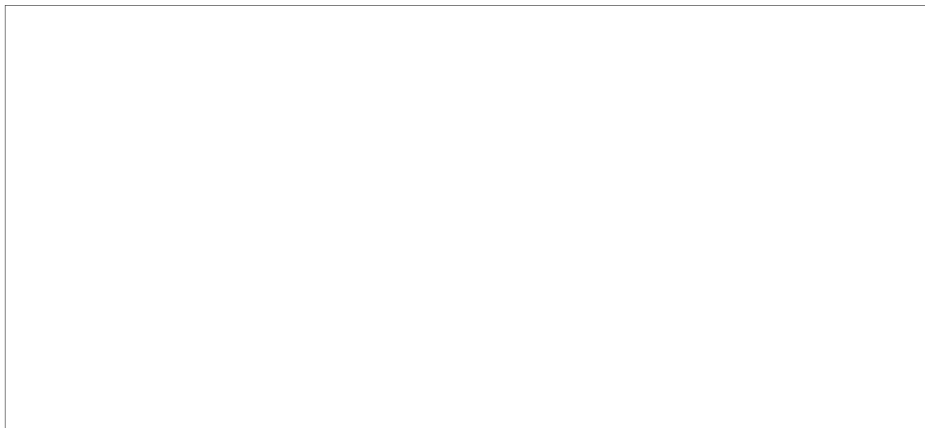
This political offensive was to stress proselyting of members of the South Vietnamese military from 9 to 23 February; so far, we have no evidence this was successful. The proselyting phase is to be followed from 11 to 16 March by a controlled propaganda campaign in all cities based on popular economic issues and desires for peace. Finally, a "fever-pitch struggle movement" demanding direct negotiations with the Liberation Front by a "peace cabinet" is to be waged from 17-25 March. If the enemy sticks to this time schedule, we should begin to see some attempts to get

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demonstrations started within the next week and presumably
a step-up in military activity as well.

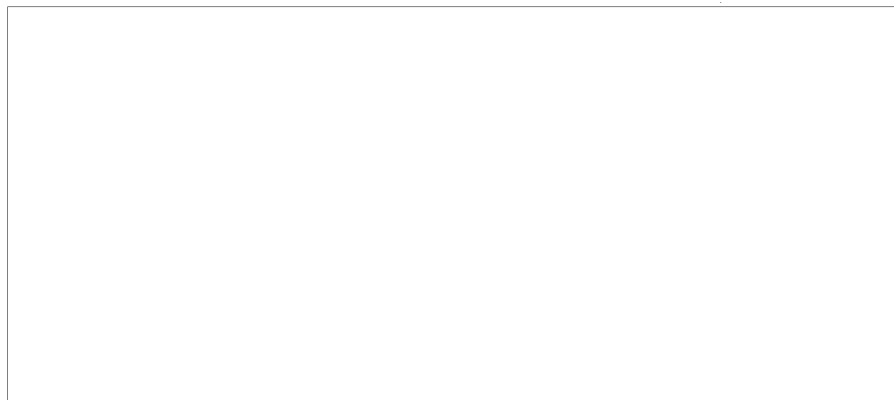
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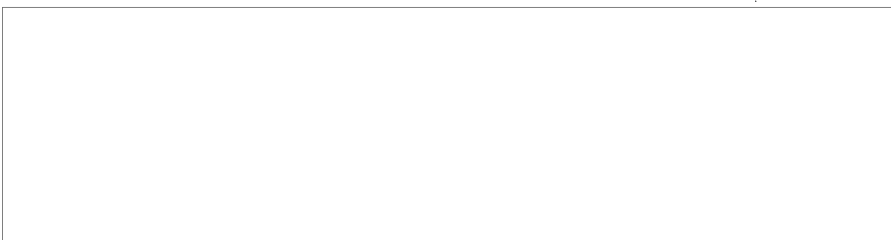
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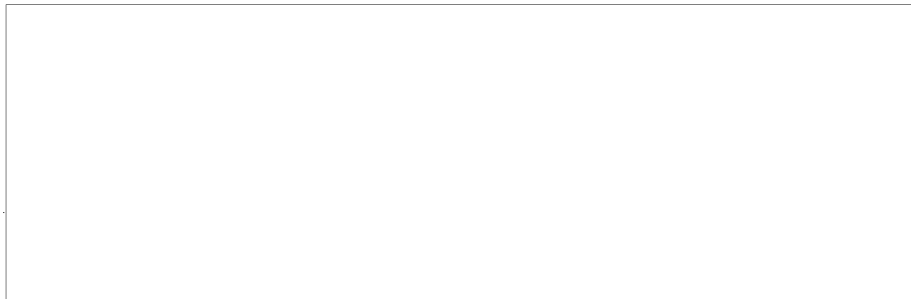


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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

COMMUNIST CHINA - SOVIET UNION

In the wake of the Sino-Soviet border clash, thousands of Chinese demonstrators harassed the Soviet Embassy in Peking today. We have heard nothing yet on reciprocal activity in Moscow.

CHILE

Congressional elections on Sunday cost President Frei's Christian Democratic Party its majority in the Chamber of Deputies, although it remains the largest party in Chile. With 31 percent of the vote--far below the 42 percent it obtained in 1965--it now holds only 56 seats of 150 in the lower house. In the Senate, it gained but is still three seats short of controlling that body.

The biggest gainer was the conservative National Party, which emerged as the second largest party. We presume this was due in part to disenchantment by the middle class with Frei's reforms. The Communist and Socialist parties together polled about 30 percent of the vote. Pro-Castro Socialist Salvador Allende got the highest vote in his district, giving him an important push toward the presidential nomination by the Communists and Socialists in 1970.

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